

From: Judson Holt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 9:17am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe the proposed Microsoft settlement is wrong. It does not go far enough to restore competitiveness.

To me, competitiveness means that there must be a way for a third-party software company to come up with an operating system that is completely compatible with the hardware and applications that currently work with Windows. As I understand it, the best way to do this is to require Microsoft to publish its APIs. I have used Microsoft products for a long time. First MS-DOS on an IBM PC, then Windows 3.1, then Windows95, WindowsNT, and now I'm using Windows2000. However, I have been continually frustrated by the additional "features" that have been tacked on with each successive generation of O/S. I would love to be able to buy a 'stripped down' Windows with few features, low computing overhead, high stability and high security that is still compatible with all the application software that's already available. I doubt Microsoft will ever consider making this kind of OS. In a truly competitive environment I should be able to buy such an operating system from a third-party vendor, assuming people like me formed a large enough niche market.

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